

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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I N S I D E

Around the CNMI

Warning out vs unregistered water users

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

The CNMI Water Task Force warned Friday that unregistered water users would be identified and disconnected when the government and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. begin a one-time sweep for identification and leak detection.

According to Water Task Force chair Diego T. Benavente, contracts for a systematic leak detection program from reservoirs to CUC customers will

soon be implemented in hopes to identify leak-prone areas and unregistered users.

The effort will require digital correlators to accurately identify system leaks, categorize them based on volume loss, and report them for repair, he added.

He said the task force and the CUC would also do a one-time sweep of all customers to repair minor leaks, install water conservation devices, and develop public education programs. He warned that unregistered

users would be identified and disconnected. These users will be required to apply for hookup, metered, and reactivated.

Benavente disclosed that the recently approved \$5.2 million spending plan for Saipan’s water crisis would finance various pending projects necessary to meet the task force’s plan to provide 24-hour potable water for Saipan residents.

Benavente said aside from an update on the rate study conducted by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the task force

would be able to implement the contracts for hydraulic A&E designs and construction to isolate various wells from the distribution system.

The Well Isolation program is anticipated to improve the delivery and treatment of water to reservoirs and direct injection of chlorine into the distribution system will be eliminated.

He said all wells in the Sablan Quarry and Agak well fields will be transmitted to the nearest reservoir for treatment and delivered to customers

through distribution lines.

According to Benavente, the grant also provides for the task force and the CUC to increase the production of water through its Phase 1 project that includes a New Wells Development Program. The project would include construction of water and power lines for the nine new wells that will be constructed this year at the Obyan well field and the Sablan Quarry well field at Rapagaul.

“The task force and the CUC continue to [look at] rainwater catchment systems as a viable source of water. The task force and the CUC have phased this program into four categories—residential, commercial, industrial, and government facilities,” explained Benavente.

surized zones. This is the first time that technology is available to account for water use in a non-pressurized area.

“These meters do not read air. CUC will be able to charge customers for water based on use regardless of the number of hours water is delivered. It will encourage customers to repair leaks and conserve. Also, the task force and the CUC will be able to conduct a leak detection effort in 24-hour pressure zones,” Benavente further explained.

The new funding assistance would also finance the new study on the rate structure of the CUC reiterating the need to update the rate structure to assist the agency in cost recovery.

He stressed that incentive programs and installation of rainwater catchment systems for large commercial and government buildings will be addressed during this phase.

The task force said the most important programs of the project is the installation of electronic meters on non-pres-

surized zones. This is the first time that technology is available to account for water use in a non-pressurized area.

“These meters do not read air. CUC will be able to charge customers for water based on use regardless of the number of hours water is delivered. It will encourage customers to repair leaks and conserve. Also, the task force and the CUC will be able to conduct a leak detection effort in 24-hour pressure zones,” Benavente further explained.

The new funding assistance would also finance the new study on the rate structure of the CUC reiterating the need to update the rate structure to assist the agency in cost recovery.

Benavente said with the approval of the \$5.2 million spending plan, funding for technical assistance to update the CUC’s rate study that was developed a few years ago was also provided.

Benavente said it is very important that the rate study be updated to determine the appropriate rate for water use.

House demands tinting study results from DPS

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

The 14th House of Representatives is demanding a copy of a purported study that the Department of Public Safety had cited Friday in blaming the rising number of car accidents in the Commonwealth on the tinted windows of cars.

Rep. Clyde Norita, in a media briefing, urged the DPS to submit a copy of the purported report that was cited by Commissioner Edward Camacho in disclosing plans to ban the use of tint on vehicles to decrease the number of traffic accidents.

Camacho had said in the earlier interview that he is working with the Legislature to have the tints removed from CNMI vehicles due to the limited visibility afforded drivers.

According to Norita, however, the measure, which was introduced by Rep. Benjamin Seman, only seeks to regulate the percentage of tint grade in car windows. He said it is still being reviewed by the House Judicial and Governmental Operations committee.

“I was surprised that there is statistics on accidents caused by tints. If there is a study, we want a copy of that, particularly if it is a factor in accidents. I want to know also, what is this federal law that requires CNMI or any state to comply with this ‘fed-

eral tinting law,’” said Norita.

Prior to his stint at the House of Representatives, Norita served at the DPS Office of Grants and Federal Programs.

Norita expressed surprised about this purported federal law that bans the tint use in all vehicles. He said there is no such federal law but if he is mistaken, he urges Camacho to immediately send a copy of that law and the tinting study it cited, particularly since the House is reviewing a tint bill that hopes to protect law enforcers doing routine and patrol check ups even in the middle of the night.

“That measure is to regulate the tint grade on all vehicles. It is for the safety and survival of all law enforcers who are doing traffic stops and inspections. It is for their lives and safety,” said Norita.

He pointed out that review is still ongoing and the JGO is still verifying the tint grade requirement under the law. The House is expected to pass the bill in the next two weeks, he added.

On Thursday, commissioner Camacho disclosed plans to strictly implement the tint measure to comply with federal laws.

“We receive federal money to fix our highways and to enforce the laws on our streets, and one of the requirement is for us to comply with federal law that says no tint. Only the factory-made tints on vehicles are to be allowed and nothing more,” he said.

Candidates prepare for Liberation reign

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

The journey for eight young ladies on their road to the 2004 Liberation Royal Court Coronation has been quite an experience as their day and night routine have been drastically changed as they prepare for the big night.

According to Queen’s Committee Rose Ada-Hocog, the

eight candidates have formed a bond with each other since confirming their candidacy.

“They been working together really hard as they prepare for everything that they’ll be doing as part of the Liberation Royal Court, and have really bonded with each other,” she said.”

Preparations were not a walk in the park for these candidates, with their days filled with challenging

tasks ranging from public speaking, photo shoots, and greetings to interviews and performances for various occasions.

The candidates were heavily involved in the welcoming of the many veterans that arrived for the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the World War II Battles of Saipan and Tinian, as well as the arrival of over 200 sailors onboard the USS Gary.

Vying for the coveted crown are Lady Lady Heather O. Woodruff, who represents the Palauan community; Lady Sweeda N. Glad, who represents the Indian community; Lady Leiana K. Ogumoro, who represents the Refaluwasch Foundation and community; Lady Sarah T. Igisaia, who represents the Chuukese community; Lady Myla Capilitan, who

represents the Filipino community; Lady Sheyvonne Aldan, who represents the Chamorro community; Lady Monarie R. Cabrera, who represents Kagman High School JROTC; and Lady Nadia B. Manglona, who represents Rota and the Rota High School JROTC.

Hocog said many hours were also spent learning traditional and cultural dances that were eventually performed for several nights at the Liberation Fest carnival grounds in Garapan. Credited for assisting with the dances were local instructor Frances C. Kere-mius as well as local dance group Tipiyeew Dancers.

the Queen’s Committee.

In related news, the counting of tickets sold by each candidate, which determines final rankings, was held yesterday at Tudela’s office. Present were parents and sponsors of each candidate, as well as Liberation Executive Committee chair Victorino Cepeda.

Hocog said the area was well secured, with two police officers guarding the door.

Whoever is crowned queen will receive \$1,000 in scholarship, while the first and second runners-up receive \$700 and \$500 in scholarships.

Results of the counting, however, will not be revealed until the coronation night on July 2 at the carnival grounds, expected to unfold at 7pm.



Marianas High School, Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School students join together at the Marianas High School Campus for the 6th Annual JROTC Summer Leadership Course.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cadets take up summer leadership course

With a total of 84 cadets and four instructors, three schools—Marianas High School, Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School—joined together at the Marianas High School Campus for the 6th Annual JROTC Summer Leadership Course.

The course is a two-week event, which began on Monday, June 21, and ends on July 2. The course was first introduced to Marianas High School in 1999 and has developed throughout its subsequent summers. Instructors from each school are responsible for the cadet’s participation in the event.

Cadets who enroll into the course must have a 3.0 GPA or above with the intention of joining the JROTC program the following school year.

The purpose of this course is to prepare the cadets for pos-

sible future leadership positions in the JROTC program as well as other leadership positions outside of the program. Cadets are to be trained with emphasis on leadership skills, positions, values, principles, drill and ceremony, and physical training; they will also be trained on counseling, JUMS and service learning.

On the second to the last day of the Summer Leadership Course, the cadets will be given a written examination covering all subjects covered in the entire two weeks of training. On the final day, there will be a graduation ceremony for all the cadets who successfully finish the course. The cadets will then march in the Liberation Day parade as one unit and selected cadets will perform in the armed and unarmed exhibition drill teams.

Managaha gets green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality has analyzed water samples collected from Mañagaha’s recreational beaches and dock and found that none of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

“Therefore, DEQ assigns all of the sampled beach sites a green flag. Enjoy our wa-

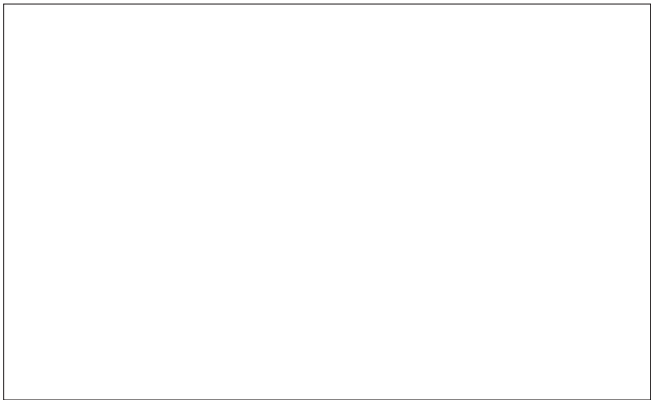
ters,” the agency said.

DEQ conducts the analysis every month as part of the regularly scheduled sampling. It analyzed a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Mañagaha this week.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter.


mcdo


WEATHER FORECAST





PICTURE TIME: 2:25 A.M., DECEMBER 17, 2003
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.


A monsoon trough extends from 6N130E through a tropical disturbance near 8N145E and finally to near 5N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the disturbance are found in the Mariana islands as well as between Yap and Chuuk or between 4N and 16N from 139E to 153E. Just east of the monsoon trough, a surface trough of low pressure continues to near the equator at 168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are developing north and east of the trough or within 100 miles either side of a line from 9N160E to the equator at 173E, including Kosrae. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across portions of the Marshall islands, between 4N and 16N from 170E to 180.


 **SAIPAN AND TINIAN**
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.


 **GUAM AND ROTA**
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.


 **PALAU**
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.




















 **POHNPEI**
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 10 kt.

 **YAP AND ULITHI**
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.

 **KOSRAE**
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Southeast at 10 kt.

 **CHUUK**
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers with a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.

 **MAJURO**
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 10-15 kt.

CITY		FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
	Auckland	Cloudy	61F (16C)	49F (9C)
	Beijing	Sunny	44F (7C)	26F (-3C)
	Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
	Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86F (30C)	72F (22C)
	London, England	Cloudy	56F (13C)	45F (7C)
	Los Angeles	Cloudy	69F (21C)	51F (11C)
	Manila	Cloudy	88F (31C)	71F (22C)
	Melbourne	Sunny	73F (23C)	54F (12C)
	Miami	Partly Cloudy	84F (29C)	75F (24C)
	New York, NY	Cloudy	52F (11C)	48F (9C)
	Osaka	Rain	54F (12C)	46F (8C)
	Paris	Cloudy	53F (12C)	41F (5C)
	Pusan	Rain	58F (14C)	43F (6C)
	Rome	Partly Cloudy	55F (13C)	39F (4C)
	Salem, Oregon	Rain	54F (12C)	38F (3C)
	San Francisco	Sunny	64F (18C)	47F (5C)
	Seoul	Rain	52F (11C)	45F (7C)
	Tokyo	Rain	55F (13C)	49F (9C)
	Washington, DC	Cloudy	60F (16C)	48F (9C)

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

South Korea comes of age

South Korea's democracy has reached the point at which protests occur at the ballot box rather than in the streets. The country rid itself of rule by generals less than two decades ago, but the calm acceptance of the impeachment of President Roh Moo Hyun and his recent reinstatement demonstrate a reassuring familiarity with rule by law rather than bayonet.

The National Assembly's quarrel with Roh escalated out of all proportion this year and never should have resulted in impeachment.

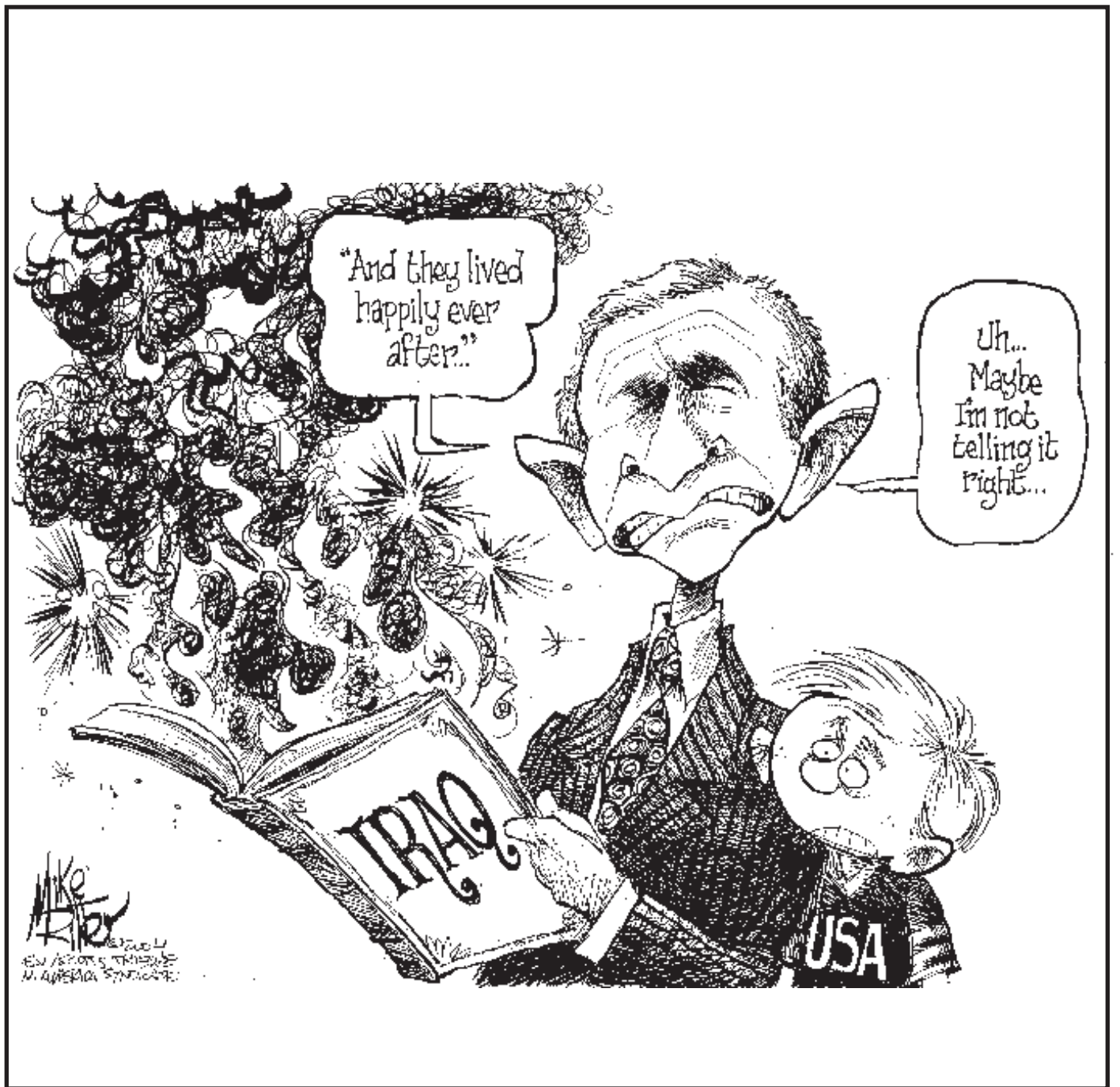
His conservative opponents in the legislature claimed that Roh's remarks in a television interview violated election laws on presidential neutrality. The foes demanded an apology, the president refused and the snowball kept rolling downhill.

After the impeachment forced Roh to let Prime Minister Ko Kon serve as acting president, elections for the National Assembly gave voters a chance for revenge. Roh's supporters won a convincing victory; South Korea will be dominated by leftist parties, for the first time, when the new legislature takes office Tuesday. Little more than a week ago, the Constitutional Court delivered the opinion everyone expected: The impeachment was unjustified.

What's left of the conservative caucus in the legislature will have to find a way to get along with the president if its members want to retain their seats. But Roh should also be more willing to listen to his opponents, especially on the economy. Seoul will need a Plan B if China, South Korea's largest trading partner, follows up on its intention to slow its explosive growth.

Roh has worked to improve relations with Washington and to overcome his pre-presidency reputation as anti-American. Roh took in stride the announcement last week that 3,600 of the 37,000 U.S. troops in South Korea would be transferred to Iraq. South Korea has sent more than 400 army medics and engineers to Iraq, and Roh has promised 3,200 more. How he balances leftist supporters' demands that he not send additional soldiers against conservatives' insistence that he live up to his agreement with the United States may indicate how much of a political lesson impeachment has taught him.

Los Angeles Times



Let's get rid of learning factories

By **HUGH OSBORN** and **MARGARET GAYLE**
Special to The Washington Post

The No Child Left Behind Act may be underfunded, but that is not what is wrong with it. Although it is a well-meaning attempt to bring up the lowest third of our students, its real problem is that it amplifies one of the worst aspects of American education: its mechanical, rote nature.

Early in the last century, foundations set up by industrialists helped design our schools to prepare children for factory lives. Kids were to live by the bell, move through schools as if on conveyor belts and, especially, learn to follow instructions. Then they could work in the rapidly proliferating factories.

But the descendants of these corporate barons have shipped those factories overseas. We have factory-based schools in an Information Age—and no factories. The innovative thinking we need to compete in the global economy is not on the agenda.

This factory-based approach, however, is locked in by political gridlock. The right believes in a back-to-the-basics form of education with strict assessment. The No Child Left Behind Act, for instance, encourages rote learning by aligning highly specified lessons with mechanized tests.

The left, meanwhile, has been open to more enlightened forms of learning, but it also supports the teachers unions, which oppose school choice. The outcome is the worst of both worlds: endless, mechanistic test prep and very limited choice. Our kids are paying the price, as seen in the 30 percent dropout rate.

We can do better than this. Here are five reasonable, common-sense principles on which to rebuild our school system:

□ Engage the students. It is obvious that we learn when interested and motivated, and we don't learn—and are

more likely to drop out—when we are bored. This should shock nobody.

□ Use the power of information technology. Our kids live on technology, which can supply not only the infrastructure for learning but also the spectacular learning techniques developed in the games market. Cognitive researchers are finding that games have become intense learning systems that don't rely on drilling and testing. Stripped of their violence, they are a central part of the solution.

□ Get our kids into the real world. Activities must be designed that encourage expeditions to museums, libraries, parks and historical sites and get children involved in their communities. Kids must not be slaves to tests or their computer screens.

□ Return to social learning. Teachers in our one-room schoolhouses used older students as assistants with younger kids. It worked. The older children derived a sense of self-worth, importance and belonging. They learned social skills, had the powerful learning experience that teaching provides and made learning look cool to younger kids. It made the school a real community—not an age-segregated aberration—and made teaching extremely effective.

□ Use the free market. Web-based publishers should make Internet learning games available directly to parents at reasonable prices. This partial home schooling provides educational choice without the drastic measures of full home schooling, private school or vouchers.

MIT and other universities are working to evolve our thinking about advanced uses of technology in education. America leads the world in scientific research, technology, entertainment and many other areas. Why can't we lead in education?

Osborn is an educational consultant; Gayle is executive director of the American Association for Gifted Children at Duke University.



By RUTH L. TIGHE

Well, it's finally here—the commemoration of the battles of Saipan and Tinian; nearly a week of formal observances started last night. It's interesting how narrowly focused it is, honoring only the actions of the American military, commemorating only those two battles—events which took place more than half a century—and two generations—ago. But the Saipan and Tinian battles were only one of several. Battles were also fought on other islands of the Pacific—on Peleliu and Corregidor and Luzon. Many others, besides Americans, lost their lives in those battles as well. Yet there is only one event commemorating local islanders' losses, and none commemorating all the others.

Particularly in light of the close relationship the CNMI has developed with Japan, one would have thought that the deaths of the many Japanese military would also have been honored. But only one ecumenical note occurs during the entire time, on June 15th, when an interfaith memorial service is scheduled to be held for “each and every life lost”—but only in the battles, only for those for Saipan and Tinian.

Moreover, despite the on-going battles in Afghanistan and Iraq, today's climate calls for universality, for an honoring of all peoples, for a focus on peace, not war. It's not the death, deprivation, destruction that should be forever remembered; it is the outcome of the war—the general peace, the political freedoms, the economic successes, and the plenitude so many more people enjoy today than did 60 years ago, that should be remembered. But there's little trace of that in the week's events, either.

Yes, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas would likely not be in existence today if the outcome of the war had been different. And yes, the Americans who fought here deserve recognition and appreciation. But how much more regenerative it would have been if the commemoration had been more ecumenical.

□ □ □

On the topic of things ecumenical, readers might be interested in a new show broadcast on public radio station KRNK (88.1 FM, 89.1 FM, depending on your location) called “Justice Talking.” It airs every Thursday afternoon from 3pm to 4pm. Topics tackled on the show in recent weeks have included prison reform, rape laws, drug testing, and the desirability of manned flights to Mars.

Letters to the Editor

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.

Jobs for graduates

I had the great pleasure of attending the Northern Mariana College graduation exercises last week. Among the graduates was the mother of five of my grandchildren. Living solely from my son's government job, she managed to get her college degree and take care of my son and five children at the same time.

She, like her contemporaries, was duly pleased with the event. She had achieved one of her life's goals. As she turned the tassel on her cap, Carmen saw my son grinning from ear to ear. Carmen said, “Why are you so happy?”

Rich smiled his famous cheesy grin and said, “Payday!”

Celina and her classmates who had received their BS in education were pretty much guaranteed jobs somewhere in the Marianas, most of them on their home island. Moreover, they will be entering the job market at \$28K plus. For Celina and her family, the age-old promise of, “work hard in school so you can get a good job” was coming to fruition. She will get an air-conditioned classroom, probably on Tinian, and the money she makes will be enough to pay off the debts they accumulated while she was in school. After several years of sacrifice, they will have a little cash left over after payday to finally enjoy an evening out with their children.

The next morning we rose from our beds at PIC and found the paper under our door. There was the anticipated front-page picture of the graduates, smiling at each other after the ceremony. Unfortunately for our proud graduates, they lost the headlines to “Minimum Wage Issue Revived,” and “NMI Non-Resident Workers Up 16%.” The smiling graduates of yesterday were forced to face the sobering thought that even with their newly earned degrees, they would have to compete with nonresident workers for jobs. The outlook for their future suddenly dimmed.

There is a solution to this problem, and it does not require legislative deliberation. It only requires the students to do what the law

At the moment, it is only a temporary filler for a classical music show that the station lost until the Fall. But it's well worth listening to—informative, provocative, interesting.

□ □ □

When are all those critics going to stop issuing blanket indictments of the CNMI's minimum wage law? When are they going to realize that while for some workers, the minimum wage is \$3.05 an hour, for many more, it is not—it is, in fact, more? Are the CNMI's government officials, paid lobbyists, not doing their job?

Imported workers who receive employer-provided health care and subsidized food and housing either directly or through allowances, in addition to their minimum wage, are not earning a mere \$3.05 an hour. They are earning considerably more. To argue that these workers are receiving only CNMI's minimum wage, and therefore the minimum wage must be raised is incorrect, illogical and unreasonable.

On the other hand, the local labor force, which is given neither health care nor subsidized food and housing, is deserving of receiving more than the CNMI's present minimum wage of \$3.50 per hour.

Isn't it high time that the ‘powers that be’ learn to make that distinction? And help the CNMI develop a wage scale that will take those differences into consideration, rather than condemning what they apparently don't understand?

□ □ □

Don Farrell, in his capacity as representative of Azmar, the company which is seeking a permit to mine ash on Pagan, has asked that I note in my column, that “My choice of words was poor in my first statement.” He had said, regarding Pagan's black sand beach, “The question we have to ask ourselves and CNMI citizens [is], is the loss of the black sand beach equal to the millions of dollars in revenue it will create for the citizens of the CNMI?” which I duly quoted in my June 4 column. In response to that column, he wrote to say, “What I should have said was, ‘... is the loss of a portion of the black sand beach equal to the loss of millions of dollars in revenue annually to the entire CNMI?’” (emphasis added)

I'm still having problems picturing the co-existence of harbor functions and recreational activities on the same beach—particularly since that black sand beach isn't all that large to begin with.

□ □ □

One version of Azmar's proposal offers a set-aside of \$3.45 million dollars to be spent over three years to build a village for the people of Pagan. In addition, according to Farrell, Azmar has made a commitment to build an infirmary, associated with CHC, to be the Pagan Health Center. A schoolhouse would also be built, to be made available to the public school system.

What is lacking in this vision of what sounds like a “company” town, is any sort of mechanism for the people of Pagan themselves to play a role in the decision-making. No stakeholder role has been included. In the current humanistic climate, it would seem far more

propitious, appropriate, if the people of Pagan were given a voice in the decision-making process of how such funds were spent, a voice in the design and implementation of whatever does get built there.

While on the subject of Pagan, readers might be interested in checking out the web site “www.chamorro.com/community/pagan/calculator.html” which has been put together to compare potential revenues for the Azmar mining company and the CNMI under a variety of scenarios. Says Pete J.P. Perez, who has taken a significant leadership role in providing information about Azmar's mining proposal to the general public, “The calculator demonstrates that the flat 7 percent of gross sales deal [which is what is being proposed] is extremely one-sided in favor of Azmar and becomes worse as the price goes up and costs of production goes down.”

□ □ □

The full report of the governor's supposed accomplishments on his 10-day trip to Washington and Hawaii has not yet been made—he has not yet returned—but based on reports received so far, there does not seem to have been a compelling reason for the trip. The people of the CNMI, in addition to electing the governor, also elected a separate representative to Washington, D.C. There is nothing in what has been reported so far that could not have been accomplished by the aforesaid Washington Rep. Judging from the governor's inability to let the Washington Rep do his job, maybe a law ought to be passed limiting the term of the Washington Rep—before the incumbent gets so used to that job that he can't function in any other.

□ □ □

Let's see if I've got this right. The 6th CNMI Legislature passed a zoning law, later amended by the 7th and 8th Legislature. In accordance with that law, Saipan and Rota (and Tinian?) adopted local zoning codes for their own islands. But the Saipan local delegation of the 9th Legislature voted to suspend the zoning code for Saipan (which the AG's office claims was not valid, but let's not confuse things). In the meantime, the 14th Legislature has introduced House Bill 14-21 to repeal and re-enact the entire original CNMI-wide zoning law. And just now, the Saipan local delegation has voted, via House Local Bill 14-18, to lift the suspension of Saipan's local zoning code—even though the intention is to immediately amend it. The reason being given is that House Bill 14-21 cannot pass without prior passage of HLB 14-18. Make sense? Not to me!

□ □ □

My apologies to other Cha Cha Junior High School—as well as elementary schools in the Public School System—I had not realized that they, in addition to Hopwood Junior High School, also celebrated the promotion, rather than graduation of their students to the next level of either Junior or Senior High School, in local finery rather than expensive caps and gowns. Let's hope the trend trickles down to all those silly and unnecessarily elaborate and expensive kiddie “graduation” ceremonies.

prescribes and for the Department of Labor and Employment to enforce the laws that are already on the books.

The Nonresident Workers Act, 3CMC, Div. 4 . Sec. 4431 states, “Any employer who desires to utilize the services of the division in locating resident workers to fill job vacancies or, if resident workers cannot be located, obtain permission to employ nonresident workers, shall notify the Chief and report such vacancies...” Section 44432 states, “Upon receipt of notification pursuant to section 4431, the Chief shall first endeavor to fill the job vacancies reported by the employer by referral of resident workers registered with the division.”

So, there is the first step. Anyone interested in working needs to get down to the department and get registered. Don't worry about the wage, just get registered.

Section 4434 states, “The Chief shall not approve Nonresident Worker Certificates for the following job classifications: retail trade clerk, taxi cab driver, secretary, retail trade cashier, bookkeeper, accounting clerk, messenger, receptionist, surface tour boat operator, bus driver-including tour bus driver, and telephone switchboard operator.”

I know what the pat answer is: Locals won't work for \$3.05. True. True. But, who said anything about minimum wage being the wage? After all, by definition, the minimum wage is the lowest wage that can legally be paid in the CNMI. Who says the employers must pay the minimum?

And, keep in mind that for some unemployed persons, \$3.05 an hour is insufficient compared to the benefits they already receive from the government, such as food stamps and health insurance.

Let the market dictate wages. If companies are told that they must hire U.S. citizens or they just won't be able to have a cashier, a clerk or a bookkeeper, then they will have to offer a price the local market will bear. When Labor and Employment call you with a job opening and tell you it is \$3.05 an hour, tell them

to make a better offer. Labor and Employment will have to call every person on the list until they find someone who will work for a mutually agreed upon wage.

How will the stores cover this increased cost? They will take the extra \$10 or \$20 a day it costs to pay for an employee who is a U.S. citizen and spread it out at a penny a piece on the various products in their store. So we have to pay an extra two cents for a can of Spam. At least we will know that part of the cost is going to a U.S. citizen, one of our own most likely, and into our own economy.

When dollars we create locally are spent on alien labor and foreign-owned stores, a large percentage of those U.S. greenbacks are remitted to foreign ports. That is a drain on the local economy and contributes to America's growing negative gold flow. On the other hand, dollars spent on American labor, of whatever ethnic background, remains in our community and rotates among other local businesses that also employ US citizens and are the very foundation of our economy.

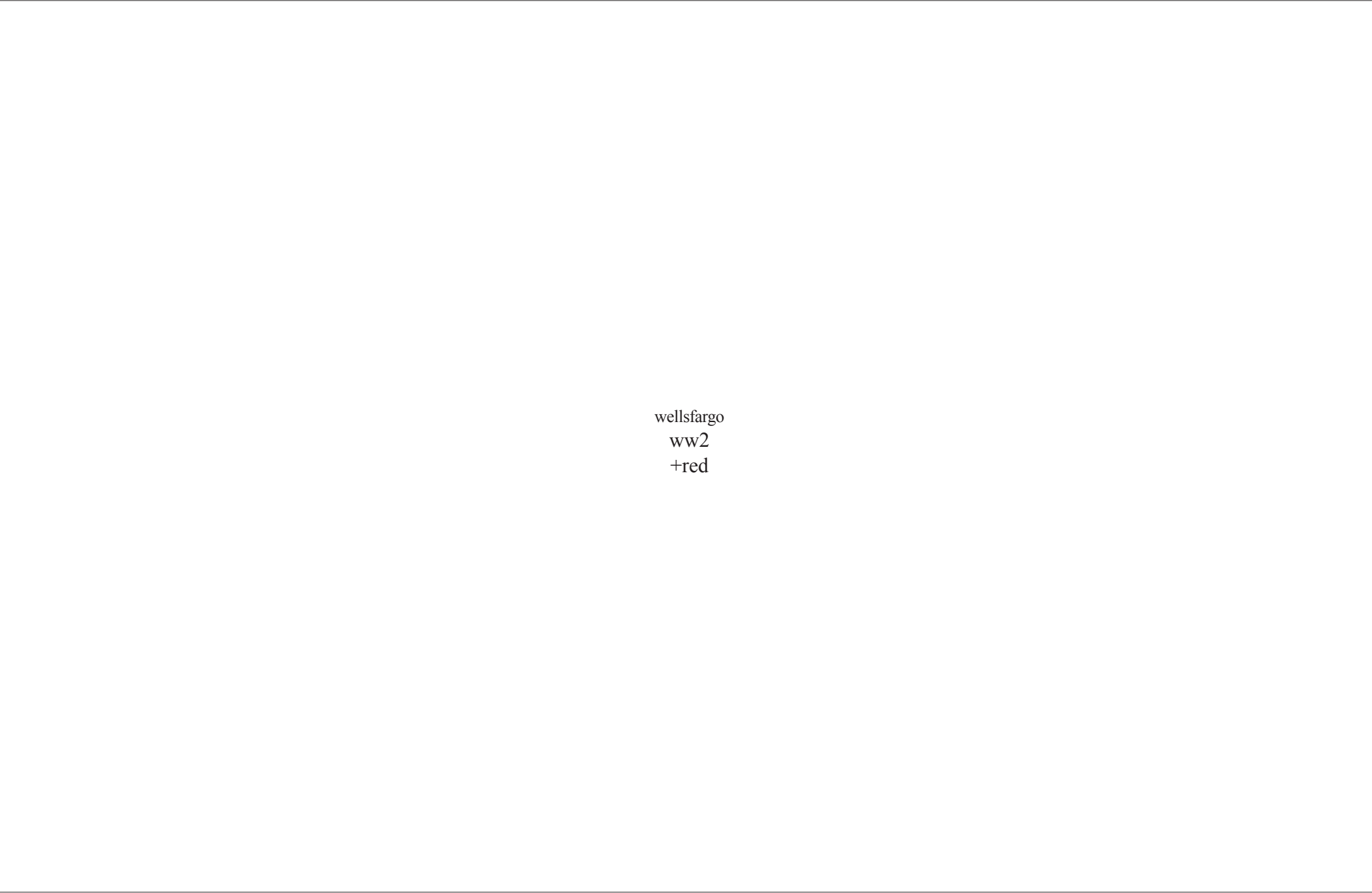
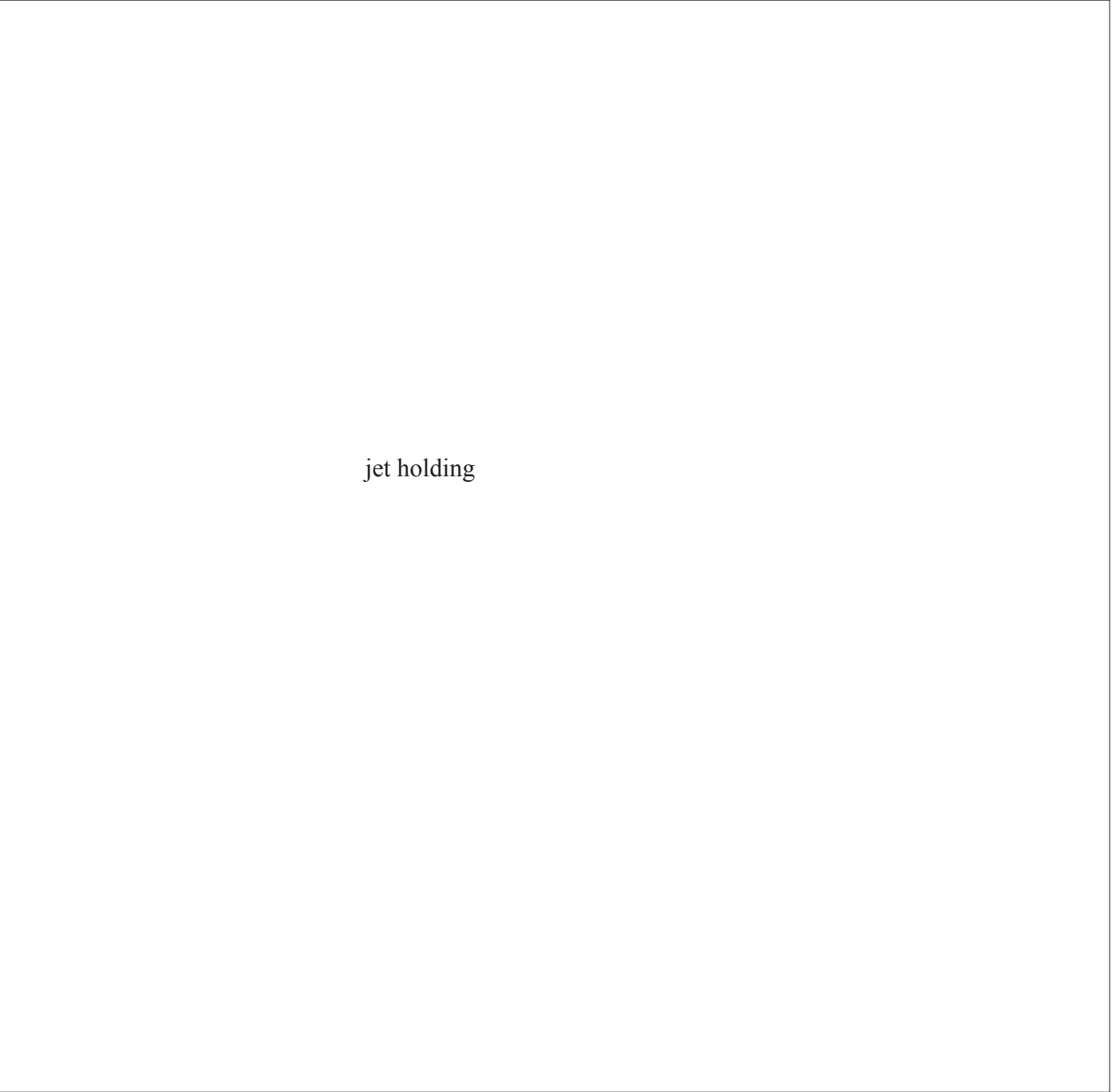
The Department of Labor has the responsibility to enforce this law, but probably lacks the manpower. They will need enough money in their budget to pay the wages of enforcement personnel who will need to visit every store in the CNMI. They will need to ask all employees to see their work permits, write down their job descriptions and the dates of permit expiration..

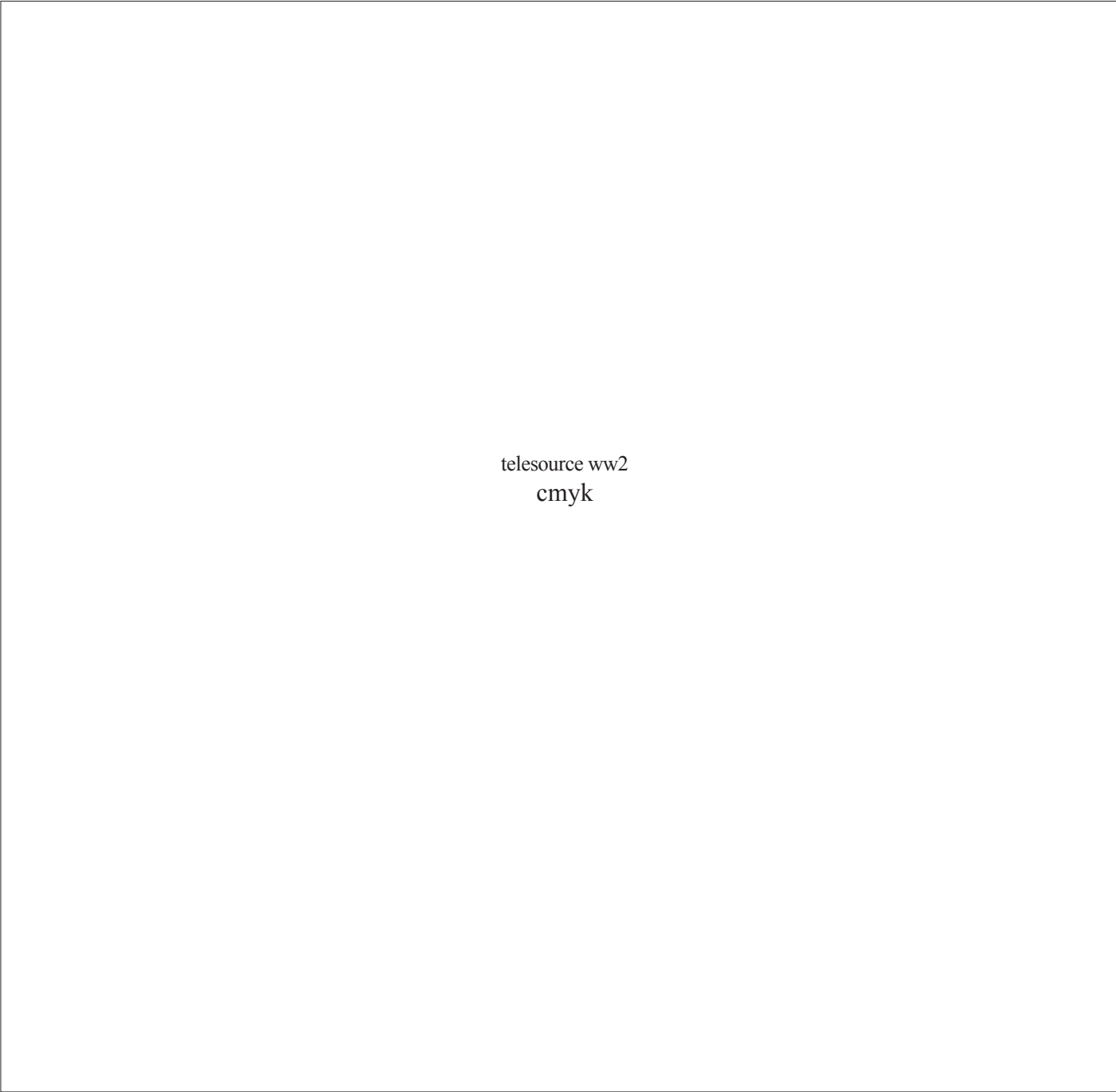
It is only proper to pay due respect to those companies that do hire locals above the current minimum wage. Many companies do go out of their way to hire locals, giving them training and promoting them into management positions. Kudos to those who do.

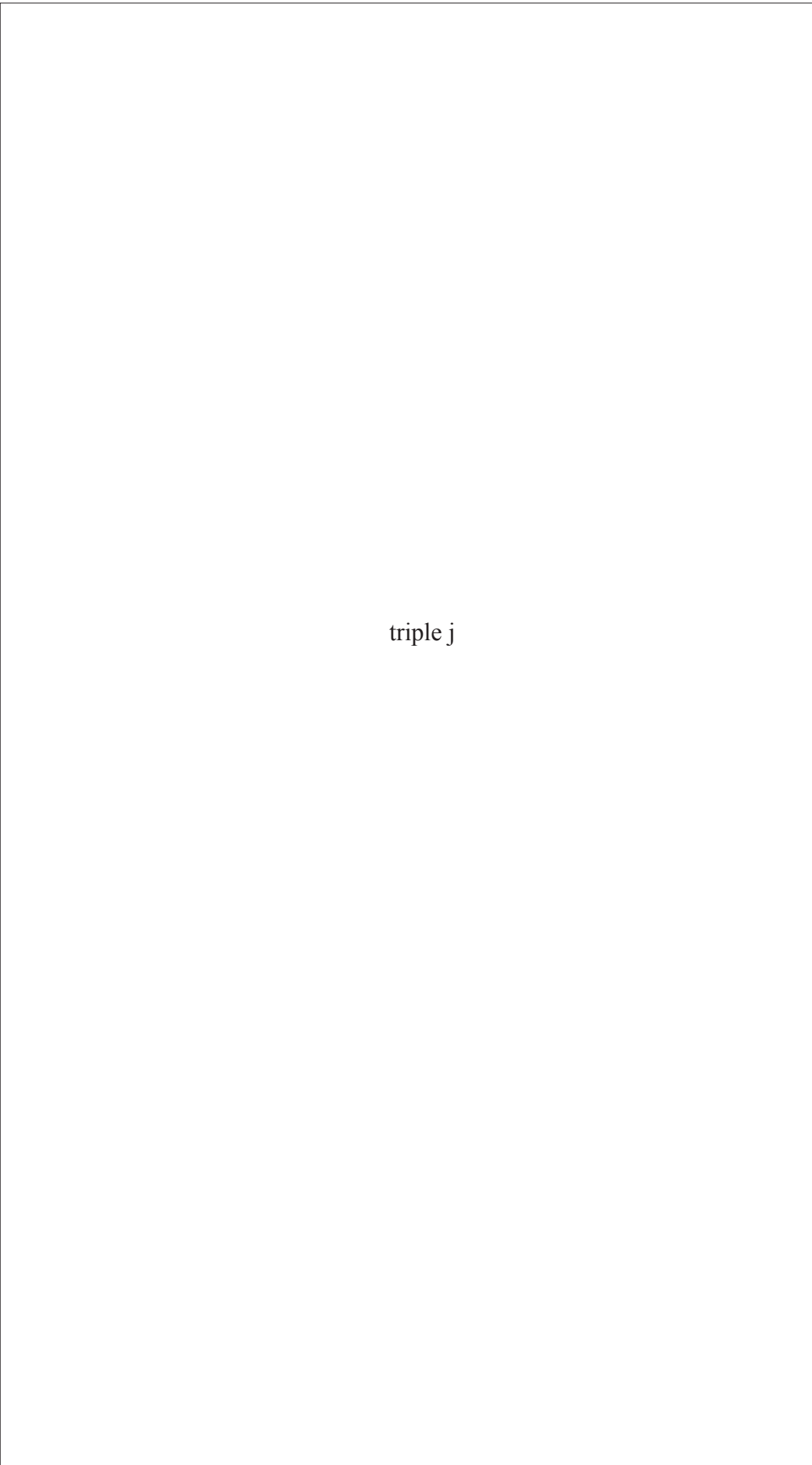
All we need to do is enforce the laws that are already on the books.

Don A. Farrell
Marpo Heights

Our World At War

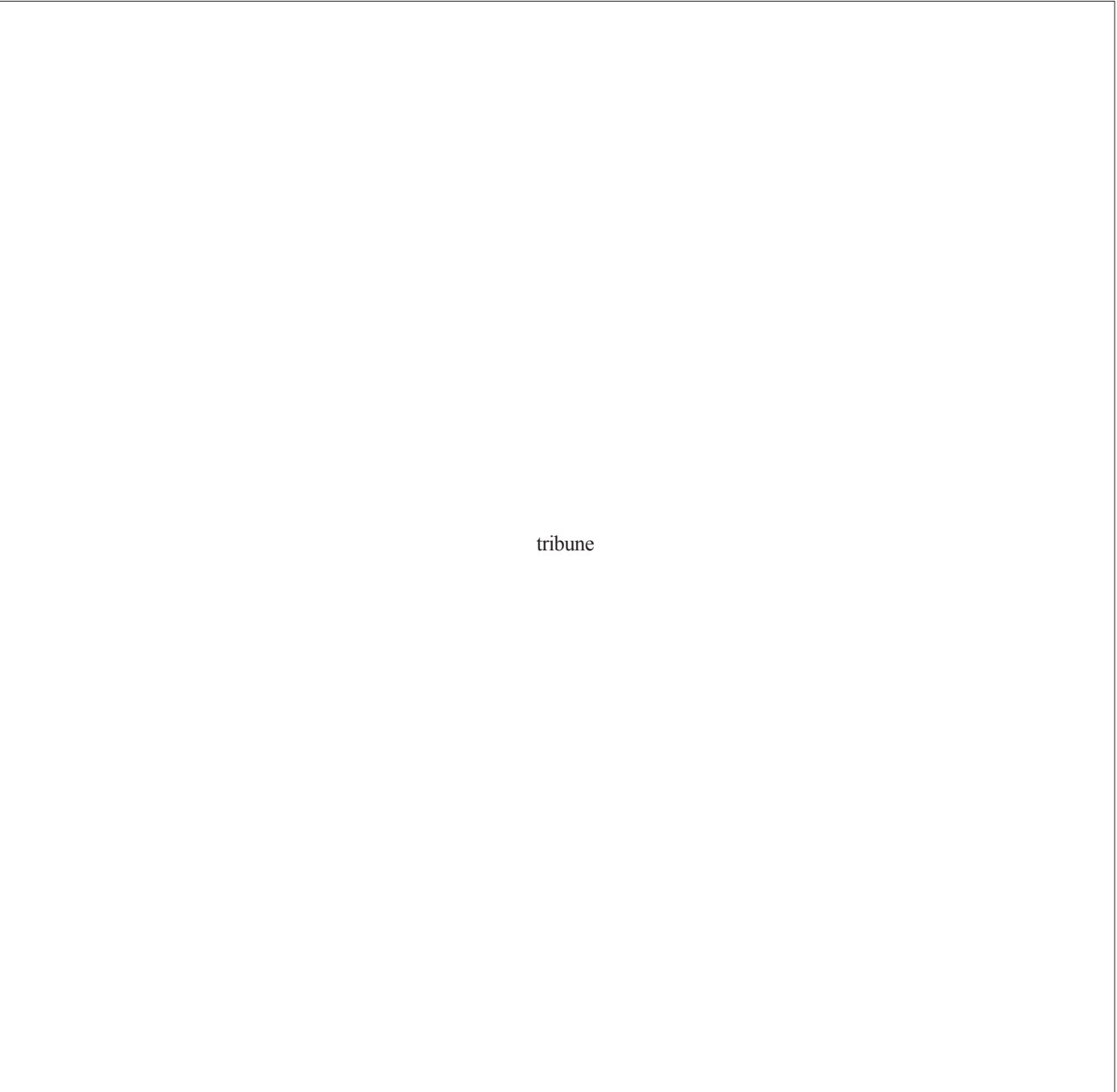
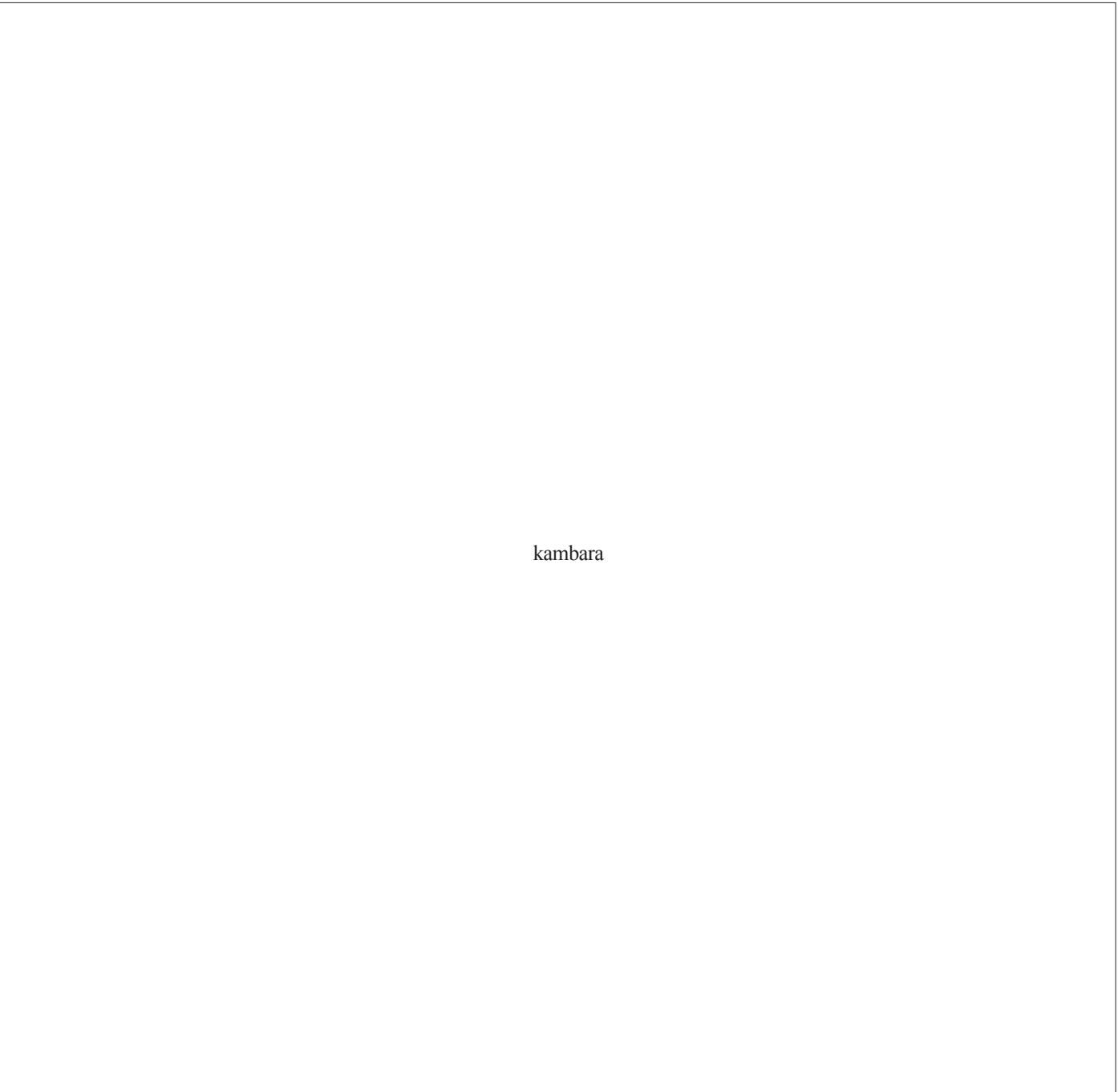






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Study: Teens get mixed lessons from TV

By LYNN ELBER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

Teenagers and parents in TV fiction often portray healthy relationships but television sends young viewers mixed messages about sex, a new study shows.

Parent-child clashes were depicted but the conflicts tended to be seen as a "normal" part of family life and the interaction was equally likely to be cooperative, researchers found.

When it comes to sex, teenagers receive a "highly inconsistent picture of

what sexual relations are and can be," the study concluded.

"Explicit and implicit lessons ranged from 'Virginity is a sign that a boy is a loser' to 'Teens don't need to be sexually active to be cool,'" according to the study released Thursday.

The study was conducted during 2001 and 2002 by researchers at Stanford University in California and Lewis & Clark College in Oregon and by independent researchers. It was organized by the nonprofit group Mediascope with funding

from the W. T. Grant Foundation.

The study included interviews with 45 network executives, producers and writers and an analysis of the content of "The Simpsons," "Boston Public," "Gilmore Girls," "ER" and other series.

The TV industry feels a responsibility toward the teenage audience but is split over what that obligation entails, the study concluded.

One camp believes there's a responsibility to protect youngsters from topics or treatments they might not be able to handle or would make

them or their parents uncomfortable, according to the study.

Others believe that restraint, while sometimes valuable, "usually should be trumped" by the need to "tell the whole story, to be honest and complete in reflecting social reality," the study found.

None of the industry members involved in the study denied that TV affects young viewers, said Stanford professor Donald Roberts. In the past, the industry insisted that viewing had little or no effect on youngsters, Roberts said in a statement.

Judge in Jackson case won't unseal records

By LINDA DEUTSCH
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP)—The judge in the Michael Jackson child molestation case reinforced the wall of secrecy around grand jury transcripts and other evidence Friday and said that trying to ensure a fair trial for such a famous entertainer is "exasperating."

Judge Rodney Melville rebuffed arguments by a media attorney who sought to unseal grand jury transcripts so the public can see whether Jackson is being treated fairly.

In doing so, he suggested that celebrity trials such as Jackson's require a different standard than those of average people.

"The difficulty of seeing that an individual in this country gets a fair trial is exasperating when the individual is known around the world," said Melville.

Jackson, 45, has pleaded not guilty to committing a lewd act upon a child, administering alcohol, and conspiracy to commit child abduction, false imprisonment and extortion.

On Friday, media lawyer Theodore Boutros Jr. implored Melville to unseal 47 search warrants and the entire grand jury indictment pertaining to Jackson so the public can know the exact charges the entertainer faces and the procedures used to gather evidence.

"The time has come, in this case, to let the sun shine in so the public, and the press as its surrogates, can know what the case is about," said Boutros, who represents a coalition of media organizations including The Associated Press.

By keeping a tight lid on the case, Boutros said Melville is allowing Jackson's lawyers to "manage" the release of information, an allegation that brought a harsh response from the judge.

"This is about the court trying to balance First Amendment rights against the rights of Mr. Jackson and the prosecution," Melville said.

"Mr. Boutros, you know that everything I'm doing is according to the law. I'm being very careful in following the law. Please do not mislead the press about this. I support the First Amendment."

Outside court, Boutros told reporters he will consult with his media clients about appealing the judge's refusal to unseal the documents.

Key sections of the indictment against Jackson are blacked out. The names of five alleged co-conspirators remain secret, as do 28 specific acts the prosecution alleges in support of the charges.

Both prosecution and defense attorneys are under a court-imposed gag order—supported by both sides—that prevents them from commenting on any aspect of the case.

The presence of Jackson, who did not attend this hearing, has turned previous sessions into public circus-es, with thousands of fans gathering to cheer the entertainer's arrival and vendors hawking souvenirs of the event outside the courthouse.

1,300 Whitney CDs flood school district

SEATTLE (AP)—The Puget Sound Educational Service District, serving 35 school districts, received 1,300 copies of Whitney Houston's soaring rendition of the "Star-Spangled Banner," a disc that includes only one other song, "America the Beautiful."

The Washington state school and library system received the CDs and hundreds of others from the recording industry as part of a price-fixing lawsuit.

Other discs have raunchy rap unsuitable for school libraries, and some librarians said it looked like the music companies were dumping stale inventory.

"Really, you can never have too many Whitney Houston CDs," joked district spokeswoman Karen Farley.

Forty-three states are part of the settlement and Washington is the first state to receive the CDs—more than 115,000 for libraries, colleges and schools. Millions more will land on library loading docks around the country in coming weeks.

In the lawsuit, music distributors and recording companies were accused of penalizing retailers by withholding advertising reimbursement if the retailers cut prices. The industry agreed to pay \$67 million to consumers, and mailed out as \$13.86 checks a few months ago.

The CD giveaway to schools, colleges and libraries will cost an estimated \$76 million.

The Spokane-based educational ser-



Lara Weigand, a librarian with the Tacoma City Library, sits with the 519 music CD's considered surplus out of the 1300 that were received as part of the settlement of an antitrust suit in Tacoma, Wash. Thursday, June 24, 2004.

Elton John books first-ever China show

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—Hold on to your sunglasses, Shanghai. Elton John will sing his hits in China's commercial center in September in his first-ever China appearances, local promoters said Friday.

The shows at Shanghai's Grand Stage could be the prelude to a full China tour within two years, said Yang Yibin, deputy general manager of Xin Xin Sports Development.

The 57-year-old performer, known for his flamboyant stage clothes and exotic sunglasses, has recently taken a break from touring to score the songs for the stage version of the film "Billy Elliot."

John is the latest Western pop star to book dates in Shanghai. Whitney Houston is scheduled to appear next month, and the Backstreet Boys and Britney Spears also are planning shows.

Museum displays Da Vinci textile machines

VINCI, Italy (AP)—A museum devoted to Leonardo da Vinci is adding a display of three machines designed by the Renaissance genius to advance the textile industry but too far ahead of their time to function.

The machines, recently built by Florence engineers based on Leonardo's plans, wouldn't have worked in his day because of the materials available in the 15th and 16th

centuries, Museo Leonardiano spokeswoman Palmira Trabocchi said. Wood would not stand up to repeated use.

"The idea was there, but the material wasn't," she said. "Leonardo saw the need to improve production. ... It shows his vision."

One machine was designed to hammer gold and silver for use in fabrics. The second aimed to weave two

strands of silk to make a single, strong thread. The last design envisioned a four-spindled spinning machine.

The three machines will be on display in a new building of the museum in Leonardo's birthplace, just outside Florence. The exhibition opens Saturday, adding to a number of machines built from Leonardo's designs already on display at the museum.

Democrats screen 'Fahrenheit 9/11' in DC

WASHINGTON (AP)—Cheered by supporters, Michael Moore previewed his Bush-bashing documentary, "Fahrenheit 9/11," before a mostly Democratic audience in the nation's capital Wednesday night.

Democratic National Committee chairman Terry McAuliffe said he thought the film would play an important role in this election year.

"This movie raises a lot of the issues that Americans are talking about, that George Bush has been asleep at the switch since he's been president," McAuliffe said as he walked the red carpet into the premiere.

Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa implored all Americans to see the film: "It's important for the American people to understand what has gone on before,

what led us to this point, and to see it sort of in this unvarnished presentation by Michael Moore."

The two-hour film depicts President Bush as lazy and oblivious to warnings in the summer of 2001 that al-Qaida was poised to strike. It also accuses the administration of manipulating the Sept. 11 attacks and fanning terrorism fears to win support for the Iraq war.

Spears engaged to dancer boyfriend

NEW YORK (AP)—Pop singer Britney Spears is engaged to her dancer boyfriend, a representative of Spears' record label confirmed Friday. "I can confirm that yes, she is engaged," said Sonia Muckle of Jive Records. Spears, 22, and Kevin Federline, 26, have not yet set a date, Muckle said.

The two began dating a few months ago, after Spears' wedding to childhood friend Jason Alexander in Las Vegas in January. That marriage was annulled within days.

Federline appeared in the

movie "You Got Served" and performed as a backup dancer for singer Justin Timberlake, Spears' former boyfriend.

He was previously involved with actress Shar Jackson, of TV's "Moesha." They have a 2-year-old daughter together and are expecting another baby in July.

Spears recently canceled her summer tour because of a knee injury she suffered during a video shoot. Her latest album, "In the Zone," was released in November and has sold more than 2.6 million copies.



AP
Pop singer Britney Spears is shown in this Jan. 24, 2004, file photo in Cannes, southern France.

Clapton's guitar sells for almost \$1M

NEW YORK (AP)—One of Eric Clapton's prize guitars sold for a record \$959,500 at an auction that raised more than \$7.4 million for a drug treatment center, auction house officials said.

"Blackie," the black-and-white Fender Stratocaster that served as Clapton's sole stage and studio guitar from 1970 to 1985, was the most expensive ever sold at auction, Christie's said in a statement. In 2002, a guitar belonging to Jerry Garcia sold for \$957,500.

The buyer of Clapton's guitar—one of 56 he offered Thursday—was not disclosed.

Proceeds will go to the Crossroads Centre in Antigua, an addic-

tion treatment center Clapton established in 1998. Clapton overcame a heroin addiction years ago.

"I am thrilled at the result, which is going to be of enormous help to us in achieving our long-term aims at the Centre," Clapton said in a statement.

Bidding was fierce for several other guitars, too. Clapton's 1964 cherry-red Gibson ES-335, along with its case, sold for \$847,500, which Christie's said was a world auction record for a Gibson.

"Lenny," the guitar Stevie Ray Vaughan played from the 1970s until his death in 1990, sold for \$623,500, Christie's said. The guitar was donated by Vaughan's estate.

Latino film festival offers over 60 films

NEW YORK (AP)—More than 60 movies are lined up for the International Latino Film Festival, organizers announced Thursday.

"Over the past five years, we have built a solid reputation for being a platform to showcase Latino filmmakers and Latino film, and this year's offering is our strongest and most diverse yet," said festival executive director Calixto Chinchilla.

The fifth annual festival, which runs July 27 through Aug. 1, opens with the U.S. premiere of "Imagining Argentina," directed by Portuguese-born Christopher Hampton and starring Antonio Banderas, Emma Thompson and Ruben Blades. It focuses on Argentina in the 1970s under a corrupt military regime. Those who opposed the government risked their lives and the lives of their families; some disappeared, becoming known as "desaparecidos."

The lineup also includes Mexican-born director Sergio Arau's "A Day Without A Mexican"—a politically charged comedy that considers what would happen to California if all Latinos there suddenly disappeared.

The six-day festival, with films both in Spanish and English—subtitled if they're in Spanish—also offers experimental works, documentaries, student works and short films, plus panel discussions and educational forums.

Rapper-actor DMX faces car theft charges

NEW YORK (AP)—Prosecutors filed drug and weapons charges Friday against rapper DMX, a day after he was arrested for allegedly impersonating a federal agent and harassing another man in an airport parking lot.

DMX, 33, allegedly crashed his sport-utility vehicle, which prosecutors said was equipped



AP
Rapper DMX is shown in New York in this March 24, 2004, file photo in New York.

with lights and sirens, through a parking lot gate at Kennedy Airport after telling the attendant to let him leave because he was a government agent.

The complaint also said that the rapper, whose real name is Earl Simmons, ordered a driver at an adjacent parking lot to get out of his vehicle. When the man refused, Simmons allegedly identified himself as an FBI agent, grabbed the driver's seat belt buckle, and tried to pull him from the vehicle.

Simmons, 33, and a friend, Jackie Hudgins, 41, were arrested shortly afterward, said prosecutor Richard Brown.

Police found a billy club and rocks of crack cocaine in the vehicle, Brown said.

According to court documents, Simmons claimed he had been cut off by the other car. Hudgins said he had tried to calm Simmons down, and that if he had paid the \$9 parking fee the incident would not have happened.

Hudgins said he had given

Simmons the \$9 to pay the fee, court documents said. Prosecutors said that when Simmons was taken into custody he had hundreds of dollars of cash on him.

Both men were charged with criminal possession of a weapon and controlled substance. Simmons is also charged with criminal mischief, impersonation, menacing, driving under the influence and other offenses. He was also charged with endangering the welfare of a child because the driver's 13-year-old daughter was in the car at the time.

The men, who remained jailed Friday, face up to seven years in prison if convicted.

Simmons and Hudgins were arraigned in Queens Criminal Court late Friday before Judge Stephen Knopf, who set bail of \$15,000. They were scheduled to return to court on July 23.

A message left for Simmons' lawyer was not immediately returned. It was not immediately clear if Hudgins had hired a lawyer.

Neve Campbell makes Broadway debut

NEW YORK (AP)—After an 11-year break from the theater, Neve Campbell is making her Broadway debut. The former star of television's "Party of Five" and the "Scream" movies will perform in Allan Knee's play "Syncopation," which opens Oct. 24. She previously appeared in the Toronto production of "The Phantom of the Opera" during her teen years.

"I just feel the urge to get

back on stage now," the 30-year-old told The Associated Press on Thursday. "I'm sort of disappointed in the scripts I'm reading. I would rather go do a play than sit at home moping. I know it will help me grow as an actor, and it will be good to work my muscles again."

Campbell plays an introverted factory worker in turn-of-the-century New York who dreams about dancing. Her character

begins taking ballroom dance lessons on the sly, where she meets a man (played by Michael Hayden) with similar fantasies. The two fall in love.

Campbell, who began dancing when she was 6, has studied all kinds of dance: ballet, jazz, modern, contemporary, flamenco and hip-hop. Noticeably missing from the list is ballroom.

"I didn't have time for that," she said with a laugh.

Ex-husband still persists in clinging to family ties

By AVIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced for almost a year. It was an ugly divorce that became long, drawn-out and expensive. I have moved on with my life. My ex-husband, however, has not. He is in constant contact with my family.

My sister casually mentioned the other day that he had stopped by her office to "talk." He also calls my mother regularly and stops by her house to see her. He takes them to dinner and tries to act like nothing changed.

What he is really doing is getting information about my life while getting sympathy from them.

The final straw was learning that he had been invited to my nephew's graduation. I have explained to my family that I want no more contact with him and do not want to see him again. He told vicious lies and spread horrible rumors during the divorce that cost me all of our mutual friends. They all believed his lies and did not support me.

We had no children, so I see no reason to stay in contact. He won't let go of me and my family. What can I do?

WANTS TO BE FREE IN ILLINOIS



Dear Abby

DEAR WANTS TO BE FREE: It would be interesting to know why your family has continued to make him welcome. Are they enjoying the attention? The drama? Whatever the tie that's binding them, it is out of your control. And whether he is clinging to them out of neediness or the pleasure of sticking it to you is beside the point.

Even if the ghost of marriage past is lurking in the background, you ARE free. So live your own life, limit the amount of information you give to your family, and consider it "mind over matter." (You don't mind, and he don't matter.) The sooner you do, the sooner you will close the unhappy chapter of your life that includes him.

DEAR ABBY: I have a sticky situation at work. One of the men I work with, "Josh," likes to brag about all his sexual conquests. One of the women he brags about is "Pamela," another of my co-workers.

I don't think he's telling the truth because she is happily married. Should I tell her he's spreading rumors about her, or should I mind my own business?

WONDER WHAT HE SEZ ABOUT ME

DEAR WONDER: By all means, tell Pamela what Josh is saying. She has a right to know and to defend herself. What Josh considers an affirmation of his charm may be construed as slander by her. And his harping on the topic of his sex life at the office could be considered sexual harassment. It won't stop until either you or Pamela complains to a supervisor.

DEAR ABBY: I am planning a 30th birthday party for my husband. I would like to invite friends and family to join us for dinner at my husband's favorite restaurant.

Because I have a small budget to work from and he has a large family, I can afford to pay only for my husband and me. Would it be OK to invite people to attend and ask them to pay for their own meal, and if so, how do I appropriately say that on the invitation?

NEEDS TO KNOW IN FREDERICK, MD.

DEAR NEEDS TO KNOW: To invite people to a party and expect them to pay for their own meal is considered tacky. Since you can't afford to give your husband a party, instead invite your friends and his large family to your home after dinner to celebrate with dessert and coffee. That way you won't be criticized.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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Goran loses to Hewitt in Wimbledon adieu

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP TENNIS WRITER



WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Goran Ivanisevic bid farewell at his favorite spot in the world, Centre Court at the All England Club, with a 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 third-round loss Friday to Lleyton Hewitt, his successor as Wimbledon champion.

"Everything was right: the weather, the crowd, the court," the 32-year-old Croat said. "I'm happy and sad. I'm sad that I have to leave, but I'm happy that it's no more practicing. Was really great - 15 years. I really enjoyed every moment of my career."

So did fans, who delighted in his engaging play and personality. Some worry whether another player can provide similar entertainment now that he's retired.

"You should wait for another Goran. Is going to come," he said in his endearingly fractured English. "Every generation has own Goran. So I was the Goran of this generation."

And the next generation? From the looks of things on Court 2 Friday, Andy Roddick could be that guy.

Swatting big serves, and following them to the net more than usual, the U.S. Open champion produced a nearly Goran-esque display of muttering during a 6-3, 7-6 (2), 6-4 victory over 128th-ranked Alexander Peya of Austria.

After a backhand slice error, Roddick said: "Stick to your shots!" A fault: "Commit to your serve!" A long forehand: "Concentrate, Andy." A weak backhand volley: "Gosh, Roddick, stick it!" When he hit a serve to Peya's backhand to win a point, a voice in the players' guest seats called out, "Way to mix it up!" Roddick wheeled to respond, "Mix it up? I've been going there 80 percent of the time."

It was better-natured than Ivanisevic's histrionics sometimes were. Recalling a \$9,000 fine at the Australian Open for cursing, Ivanisevic noted fondly: "How I swear, it was like poetic, you know?"



Former champion Goran Ivanisevic wears a Croatia soccer shirt, after his defeat by Australia's Lleyton Hewitt, in their Men's Singles, third round match on the Centre Court at Wimbledon, Friday June 25, 2004.

He once broke so many rackets during a match he ran out and had to forfeit.

Roddick didn't get any more violent than reacting to a missed leaping overhead by bonking himself in the head with his racket. Still, that's the type of animation John McEnroe and Marat Safin, among others, recently lamented is missing from the game.

The most demonstrative Peya got was when he pulled a crumpled tissue out of his pocket to blow his nose.

After the match, Roddick was critical of his play.

"It was OK, I did enough to win," the U.S. Open champion said. "I still don't feel like I'm playing my best tennis. I have to pick up my game in the next round."

That's Saturday against No. 26 Taylor Dent, another big-serving American, who defeated Stefano Pescosolido 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (3). The winner moves into the round of 16, joining No. 7 Hewitt, No. 9 Carlos Moya, No. 10 Sebastien Grosjean and - most surprisingly - No. 27 Robby Ginepri, who ousted No. 6 Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-3, 6-4, 6-1. Two other highly seeded players who aren't as comfortable on grass as clay lost: No. 2 Anastasia Myskina and No. 3 Guillermo Coria. Myskina (2004) and Ferrero (2003) won the French Open; Coria was this year's runner-up.

Amy Frazier, who beat Myskina to reach Wimbledon's fourth round for the first time since 1996, next faces No. 13 Maria Sharapova, while 1999 winner Lindsay Davenport also advanced.

Two-time defending champion Serena Williams, No. 4 Amelie Mauresmo and No. 7 Jennifer Capriati reached the third round.

Williams had 23 unforced errors against Stephanie Foretz, one fewer than in her first match, but at least the score was counted correctly. Her sister Venus' streak of four straight Wimbledon finals ended Thursday in a loss to Karolina Sprem, who was awarded an extra point by chair umpire Ted Watts.

He was barred Friday from officiating the rest of the fortnight. Serena wondered why Sprem didn't point out the error.

"As a competitor and as a professional, you should be able to distinguish between right and wrong," she said. "I've never been in a situation like

that before. I'm an honest individual. If I were in that situation, I know I'd make the right choice."

Of all the players asked how they'd react if handed a point by mistake, Ivanisevic delivered the most unique reply, of course: "I give it to somebody in the crowd."

Unable to defend his lone Grand Slam title because of a series of injuries, he wanted one last hurrah at Wimbledon before quitting. He made it to the 1992, 1994 and 1998 finals, losing once to Andre Agassi and twice to Pete Sampras. Then, in 2001, ranked 125th and in need of shoulder surgery, he became the first wild card to win a Slam, pounding a record 212 aces along the way.

His final match as a pro provided a wonderful contrast: Ivanisevic's go-for-broke serve-and-volley style vs. Hewitt's best-in-the-game returns and lobs.

With the sun shining, Ivanisevic hit 15 aces but had nine double-faults; Hewitt compiled 17 break points, converting four. That was enough because the Australian never faced a break point and lost one point on his serve in the second set.

As entertaining as the tennis was, Ivanisevic was the star of the show.

When a fan said, "Come on, Goran," Ivanisevic replied, "Yeah, yeah, yeah." He hit a half-volley through his legs. When he won a point because his shot hit the net tape and dribbled over, Ivanisevic put up his hand, as tennis etiquette demands, to tell Hewitt, "I got lucky." Hewitt turned his back, and Ivanisevic looked to the sky, putting his thumb up, as if to say, "Well done."

When it ended with Hewitt's forehand passing winner, the crowd of about 13,000 celebrated Ivanisevic with a two-minute standing ovation.

He soaked it all in with a wide grin, his hands on his hips.

"I'm proud of everything that I did in my career. I play with all generations: McEnroe, Connors, with these young guys, with Pete, with Andre," Ivanisevic said. "I gave all my life into this sport."

Magic found no reasons to skip Dwight Howard

By **MIKE BRANOM**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER



ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Orlando general manager John Weisbrod asked his assistants the night before the NBA draft why the Magic should not pick Dwight Howard.

The high school senior, with stellar pre-draft interviews, had edged past Connecticut All-America Emeka Okafor atop the Magic's wish list. Now Weisbrod, wary of wasting the No. 1 pick on a mirage, was playing devil's advocate.

Howard, at 6-foot-9, 240 pounds, has impressive physical skills but will he try to get by on those alone? Why won't the glitter and glamour of the NBA lifestyle ruin the 18-year-old? How long will his development take?

But the coaches and scouts never wavered under the questioning, and Thursday night's draft reflected their certainty.

"They picked the best person for

the job," a confident Howard said Friday during his post-draft visit to Orlando. Moment earlier, he was smiling through braces while holding up a jersey bearing No. 12.

By choosing potential over experience, Weisbrod is taking a risk in trying to rebuild after last season's 21-61 disaster. He acknowledges Okafor will give more help next year to the Charlotte Bobcats, who picked second, than Howard will help the Magic - but 2004-05 isn't the point.

"There was a national consensus, 'The Magic are so bad, they have to take the guy who's more proven, established and NBA ready,'" Weisbrod said. "I was aware of that, but I really didn't let myself fall into that thinking."

"When you come into a draft you're addressing the needs of your team, but when you have the No. 1 pick your responsibility is to pick the best player."

The Magic traded for another first-round pick Thursday, acquiring Saint Joseph's point guard Jameer Nelson

from Denver. Nelson, selected 20th, played four seasons with the Hawks, earning consensus national player of the year honors as a senior.

Orlando coach Johnny Davis speculated that many pundits believe Okafor to be better than Howard simply because of exposure. There were three years of competition in the TV-friendly Big East for Connecticut as well as a lengthy tournament run capped by the national championship.

"Maybe it's the known versus the unknown," Davis said. "But when I sat down with (Howard), when I viewed his tapes and then watched him work out, I came away thinking, 'Wow, this young man has the whole package.'"

With the Magic pinning their hopes on a prep phenom rather than a polished collegian, it's clearer than ever All-Star Tracy McGrady is gone. Orlando's disgruntled superstar has said he's unwilling to wait out another rebuilding project, and the drafting of Howard is a commitment to the future.

"I can't conceive of any scenario

with Tracy, whether he was staying or not staying, that would've made this different," Weisbrod said. "This is who we were going to pick, regardless of any Tracy factor."

Even more telling is that Weisbrod's first post-draft call was not to McGrady but to Steve Francis - the Houston guard prominently mentioned in trade talks.

Weisbrod said his conversation with Francis was productive, with each man expressing respect for the other's work. Even Francis' scuffle with Phoenix's Amare Stoudemire in March drew praise.

"I think he's stubborn, I think he's competitive and I think he likes to win," Weisbrod said.

Magic officials said trade negotiations will break for the weekend.

McGrady's history can provide the Magic with a reference point on young players, having successfully made the prodigy-to-pros leap. Yet what of those high school hotshots who were exposed as boys failing at a

man's game within three years—the length of a rookie contract?

It didn't matter their bodies were on loan from heaven, with statistics that appeared to have fallen out of a Play-station. Some simply didn't have the maturity to handle their new fortune and fame, while others found their physical skills couldn't make up for a lack of basketball smarts.

"Character has always been in me. They way I am, it's always been like that," Howard said. "I'm not going to change because I've got the money and I'm No. 1."

As a support system, Howard plans to live with Kevin Samples, his cousin and business manager, "so I can get accustomed to living by myself at a young age."

Davis refused to commit to how much playing time Howard will see or what position he will play, aside from saying he will be at all three positions in the frontcourt.

Said Howard: "I'm ready to play, ready to start the summer league, ready to run."

Devil Rays beat Florida Marlins, 2-0

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—Dewon Brazelton took a no-hitter into the eighth inning and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays beat the Florida Marlins 2-0 Friday night for their 12th straight interleague victory.

Brazelton (1-0) lost his no-hit bid when Mike Lowell lined a ground-rule double with two outs in the eighth. The 24-year-old right-hander walked six, struck out five and hit a batter in his 15th major league start.

"There were some nerves involved, first of all because I knew we were coming off a big road trip—all those wins in a row," Brazelton said.

Danys Baez got four outs for his 14th save, allowing a single to Hee Seop Choi in the ninth before finishing the two-hitter.

"We didn't do anything," Marlins manager Jack McKeon said. "That kid did a good job. You can't take anything away from him."

The victory was the 14th in 15 games for the Devil Rays, who at 35-35 overall joined the 1899 Louisville Colonels as the only major league teams to reach .500 after being 18 games below at any point during a season.

A.J. Burnett (0-3) took the loss in his 10th career complete game.

Tigers 2, Diamondbacks 1

In Detroit, Jason Johnson allowed one hit in eight sharp innings as Detroit sent Arizona to its season-high seventh straight loss.

Johnson (5-7) set down the first 12 in order before Luis Gonzalez's triple to lead off the fifth inning. He struck out five and walked one in his first win since June 2.

Orioles 5, Braves 0

In Baltimore, rookie Daniel Cabrera pitched a four-hitter for his first major league shutout, leading Baltimore past slumping Atlanta.

Melvin Mora homered in his return to the Baltimore lineup but had to leave in the fifth after experiencing pain in his foot. Larry Bigbie hit three doubles and scored twice, helping the Orioles to only their third win in 12 games.

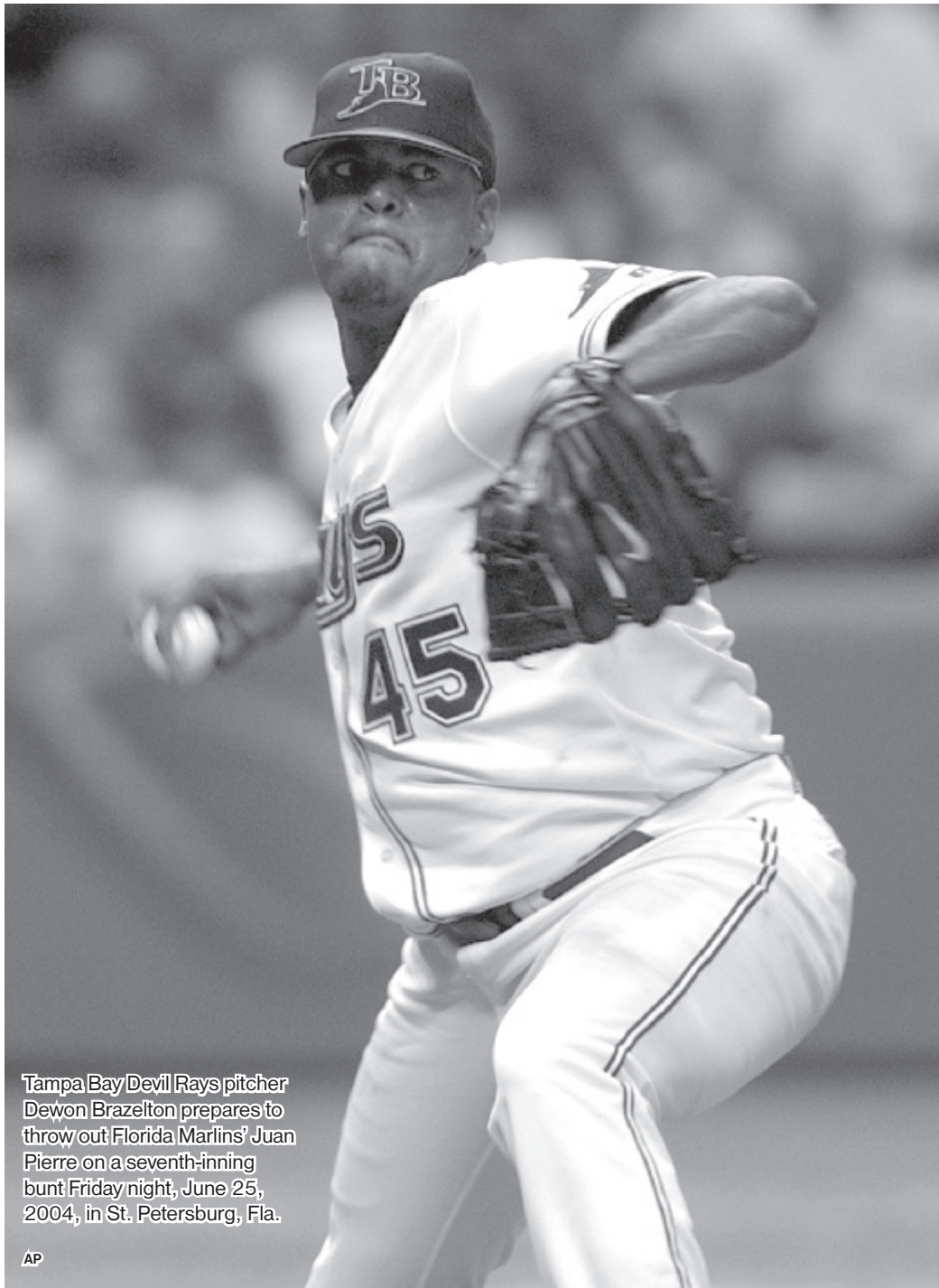
Cubs 7, White Sox 4

In Chicago, Mark Grudzielanek hit his first homer and drove in his first runs of the season to lead the Chicago Cubs over the White Sox in the opener of their spirited interleague series.

A sellout crowd of 39,596 watched Grudzielanek's three-run shot give the Cubs the lead and Mark Prior (2-1) the victory on a sunny and cool day at U.S. Cellular Field, where the Sox made three errors.

Blue Jays 3, Expos 1

In Toronto, Josh Towers al-



Tampa Bay Devil Rays pitcher Dewon Brazelton prepares to throw out Florida Marlins' Juan Pierre on a seventh-inning bunt Friday night, June 25, 2004, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

AP

lowed one run in seven-plus innings and Reed Johnson had two RBIs as Toronto beat Montreal.

Towers (2-2) allowed six hits, struck out three and walked one a day after Toronto's pitchers were rocked in a 19-13 loss to Tampa Bay. Jason Frasor pitched a perfect ninth for his seventh save.

Rockies 10, Indians 8, 10 innings

In Cleveland, Larry Walker hit his third homer of the game—and third of the season—in the 10th inning as Colorado edged Cleveland.

Walker, playing just his fourth game this year after being sidelined for 68 games with a groin injury, drove the first pitch from former teammate Jose Jimenez (1-6) into the right-field seats.

Red Sox 12, Phillies 1, 8 innings

In Boston, Manny Ramirez hit his American League-best 20th homer, drove in five runs and made an impressive diving catch to rob Mike Lieberthal of a hit in Boston's rain-shortened win over Philadelphia.

Pedro Martinez (8-3) allowed one run—Jim Thome's major league-leading 25th—on

two hits in seven innings for Boston.

Rangers 3, Astros 1

In Arlington, Texas, Kenny Rogers threw a three-hitter to become the AL's first 10-game winner as Texas Rangers spoiled Carlos Beltran's Houston debut, beating the Astros for their seventh straight victory.

Rogers (10-2) retired 13 straight batters before Beltran hit a leadoff double in the seventh. After a flyball moved him to third, Beltran scored the Astros' only run on Jeff Kent's sacrifice fly. Rogers joined Houston's Roger Clemens as the majors' only 10-game winners with his 35th career complete game.

Cardinals 5, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, Scott Rolen's homer and three-run double added four RBIs to his major league-leading total, and Matt Morris (8-6) pitched eight strong innings as St. Louis downed Kansas City.

It was the fifth four-RBI game of the season for Rolen, who leads the majors with 75 RBIs. He also had a single and was 3-for-4 to raise his average to .341.

Twins 6, Brewers 3

In Minneapolis, Johan Santana

won his fourth straight start, and Cristian Guzman homered and scored four runs to lead Minnesota past Milwaukee for its third consecutive victory.

Santana (6-4) gave up one run and four hits in seven innings, and picked up right where he left off after striking out 12 Brewers on Sunday. He struck out the first four batters he faced Friday, finished with 10 overall and leads the American League in strikeouts with 100.

Giants 6, Athletics 4

In Oakland, California, Jason Schmidt pitched into the ninth inning to win his career-best 10th consecutive decision—tying him for the major league lead in victories—as San Francisco beat Oakland for its seventh straight victory.

Schmidt (10-2), coming off a one-hit gem against Boston last Sunday, hasn't lost since dropping his first two starts of the season. He allowed four runs and five hits, struck out four and walked three in 8 1-3 innings before a sellout crowd of 48,189.

Padres 3, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Brian Lawrence (9-5) earned his ninth win, Phil Nevin hit a two-run single and

San Diego held off Seattle when pinch-runner Hiram Bocachica made a baserunning mistake for the final out.

Bocachica was running for Dave Hansen, who drew a leadoff walk from Trevor Hoffman in the ninth. With two outs and Bocachica on second, pinch-hitter Edgar Martinez hit a grounder up the middle.

Angels 13, Dodgers 0

In Los Angeles, Darin Erstad hit his first homer of the season and drove in four runs, and Jarrod Washburn and Derrick Turnbow combined on a four-hitter as Anaheim routed Los Angeles.

Washburn (8-3) gave up three

hits in seven innings to win for the first time since May 15. Vladimir Guerrero hit his 18th homer for the Angels.

Reds 6, Pirates 4

In Cincinnati, pinch-hitter Wily Mo Pena came through with a grand slam in the seventh inning, capping a six-run rally that sent the Reds past the slumping Pittsburgh Pirates.

Before the game, the Reds honored Ken Griffey Jr. for hitting his 500th home run last Sunday in St. Louis. Griffey went 0-for-3 with a walk to fall to 1-for-19 since his historic home run. He's hitless in his last 16 at-bats.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	45	25	.643	—
Boston	41	31	.569	5
Tampa Bay	35	35	.500	10
Toronto	32	41	.438	14 1/2
Baltimore	30	39	.435	14 1/2

Central Division

Minnesota	41	31	.569	—
Chicago	37	33	.529	3
Cleveland	35	37	.486	6
Detroit	33	39	.458	8
Kansas City	28	42	.400	12

West Division

Texas	41	29	.586	—
Oakland	40	32	.556	2
Anaheim	40	33	.548	2 1/2
Seattle	29	42	.408	12 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 7, Chicago White Sox 4
Toronto 3, Montreal 1
N.Y. Mets at N.Y. Yankees, ppd., Rain
Detroit 2, Arizona 1
Colorado 10, Cleveland 8, 10 innings
Boston 12, Philadelphia 1, 71 2 innings, Rain
Tampa Bay 2, Florida 0
Baltimore 5, Atlanta 0
Texas 3, Houston 1
Minnesota 6, Milwaukee 3
St. Louis 5, Kansas City 2
San Diego 3, Seattle 2
San Francisco 6, Oakland 4
Anaheim 13, Los Angeles 0

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	39	34	.534	—
Philadelphia	37	34	.521	1
New York	35	36	.493	3
Atlanta	33	39	.458	5 1/2
Montreal	24	47	.338	14

Central Division

St. Louis	44	29	.603	—
Chicago	41	32	.562	3
Cincinnati	41	32	.562	3
Houston	38	35	.521	6
Milwaukee	36	34	.514	6 1/2
Pittsburgh	27	43	.386	15 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	42	32	.568	—
San Diego	38	34	.528	3
Los Angeles	37	34	.521	3 1/2
Colorado	28	44	.389	13
Arizona	27	46	.370	14 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 7, Chicago White Sox 4
Toronto 3, Montreal 1
N.Y. Mets at N.Y. Yankees, ppd., Rain
Detroit 2, Arizona 1
Colorado 10, Cleveland 8, 10 innings
Boston 12, Philadelphia 1, 71 2 innings, Rain
Cincinnati 6, Pittsburgh 4
Tampa Bay 2, Florida 0

Baltimore 5, Atlanta 0
Texas 3, Houston 1
Minnesota 6, Milwaukee 3
St. Louis 5, Kansas City 2
San Diego 3, Seattle 2
San Francisco 6, Oakland 4
Anaheim 13, Los Angeles 0

SPORTS TRANSACTIONS

MLB

CHICAGO WHITE SOX-Placed LHP Scott Schoeneweis on the 15-day DL. Recalled RHP Felix Diaz from Charlotte of the IL.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS-Optioned LHP Chris George to Omaha of the PCL and C Mike Tonis to Wichita of the Texas League. Recalled OF David DeJesus from Omaha. Transferred C Kelly Stinnett from the 15-to the 60-day DL.
MINNESOTA TWINS-Recalled LHP J.C. Romero from Rochester of the IL. Optioned INF Alex Prieto to Rochester.
SEATTLE MARINERS-Sent SS Ramon Santiago to Tacoma of the PCL. Recalled LHP Matt Thornton from Tacoma.
TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS-Called up OF Joey Gathright from Durham of the IL. Designated INF/OF Jose Bautista for assignment.
ATLANTA BRAVES-Named Len Brown assistant team counsel.
FLORIDA MARLINS-Placed RHP Josh Beckett on the 15-day DL. Recalled LHP Michael Tejera from Albuquerque of the PCL.

NFL

MIAMI DOLPHINS-Signed WR-DB Bobby Sippio.
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS-Signed OL Shane Olivea to a three-year contract.

College

ARKANSAS-Announced it has released G Moe Hargrow from his basketball scholarship.
COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON-Named Troy Wheless administrative assistant for the men's basketball coach.
LA VERNE-Announced it is discontinuing the men's volleyball program.
MASSACHUSETTS-Suspended Don Brown, football coach, for three games.
MICHIGAN STATE-Named Matt Weise rowing coach.
MONTANA-Named Andy Hill men's assistant basketball coach.
UTAH-Named Daron Park women's assistant basketball coach.
WPI-Named Gilbert Lefort II assistant athletic trainer.

By The Associated Press

The Week in Sports

Clinching wins and kick-offs

By MARK RABAGO
REPORTER

It was all about championships and openings this past week in sports.

Last Sunday, the 2004 UFO-San Miguel Cup was unveiled at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with 12 of the 13 teams joining the parade.

Statuesque stunner Madelyn Lopez of Cabalen-RP Construction won the Best Muse plum, while Bayani bagged its second straight Best Uniform award.

Results of games saw defending champion Visminda and runner-up Cabalen outplay foes Sunday, while Thursday's schedule had Bayani and SIP overcoming their opponents.

On Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts, the 6th Annual Seaside Grille Beach Volleyball Weekend got served with Tomo Obata and Nan

Intharaluk capturing the men's doubles and Jennifer Williamson and Keiko Iwami bagging the women's title. In team competition, World Peace took the championship.

A total of 82 entries, meanwhile, saw action in the June Pepsi King of the Lanes held Sunday and Monday at the Capitol Bowling Center. Winning the men's division was John Santos, while Emi Williams took home her third women's title of the year.

The Saipan Major League finally had a playoff game under its belt after the Miller Lite Brewers routed the Pirates, 13-3, Wednesday at the Francisco M. Palacios baseball field.

Like the SML, the Inter-Restaurant Basketball League also finally got to play following days of rainouts. But Country House and Jollibee took their game too seriously with the former winning a rugged contest.



BRAD E. RUSZALA

The excitement at the Seaside Grill volleyball tournament had people standing on their heads at the PIC.

Kana Aikawa bumps her way around the court at the Seaside Grill volleyball tournament at the Pacific Islands Club.

BRAD E. RUSZALA



MARK RABAGO

Golf legend Bruce Devlin is welcomed by MVA chairman Dave Sablan and Continental's Marlet Kautz Thursday night at the Saipan International Airport.



Team No Zone had such a big lead over DCCA in the Inter-Government Softball League Championships that they decided to suit up some of their younger players.

BRAD E. RUSZALA



Roy Celis of the Miller Lite Brewers loosens up his arm between innings en route to his team's 13-3 Game 1 victory over the Pirates.

BRAD E. RUSZALA



MARK RABAGO

Century Group of Companies president Dave Sablan tries his hand at serving during the opening of the CIC Tennis Classic Thursday at the AMP tennis courts.



MARK RABAGO

Pete Mendiola of SIP-Verizon tries an acrobatic shot against Adonis Macoto of Bartenders-Alleviera Thursday night in the UFO-San Miguel Beer Cup.

Cabalen's Madelyn Lopez won the Best Muse competition of this year's UFO-San Miguel Cup. Serving as escort of Ms. Lopez is Cabalen sharpshooter Paul Magcalas.

MARK RABAGO



Edward Vega of Country House drives against Ronnel Gamboa of Jollibee Thursday morning in the Inter-Restaurant Basketball League.

MARK RABAGO



Organizers and committee members of this year's 2004 UFO-San Miguel Cup held mass with Father Ray Rosal Sunday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Goran loses to Hewitt in Wimbledon adieu

Goran Ivanisevic bid farewell at his favorite spot in the world, Centre Court at the All England Club, with a 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 third-round loss Friday to Lleyton Hewitt, his successor as Wimbledon champion.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Clinching wins and kick-offs

It was all about championships and openings this past week in sports.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



MARK RABAGO

The eight qualifiers for the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships, clockwise from upper left, Tim Quan, Dean Dedicatoria, ITF-Oceania official Dan O'Connell, Justin Dugan, Kanani Ashraf, Yumika Sugihara, Michelle Pang, and Ji Hoon Heo.

Eight excited with trip to Fiji

By MARK RABAGO
REPORTER

All eight of the qualifiers from the North Pacific are ready and raring to play in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships this August in Lautoka, Fiji.

For the record, the CNMI and Guam each will be sending four players each in the regional 18-and-under tournament.

The CNMI will pin its hopes on boys 18-and-under runner-up Tim Quan, boys 14-and-under champion Ji Hoon Heo, girls 14-and-under winner Kanani Ashraf, and second placer Mayuko Arriola.

Guam's team in Fiji, meanwhile, will be led by boys 18-and-under champ Dean Dedicatoria, girls 18-and-under title-holder Michelle Pang, runner-up Yumika Sugahara, and Justin Dugan, who finished second in the boys 14-and-under.

Dedicatoria said his victory in this year's North Pacific Qualifying Tennis Tournament was really a big thing after he finished runner-up in 2003.

"I wasn't really expecting to win. I just tried to make shots and play consistently and fortunately I came through. This is awesome..."

The 17-year-old Guamanian stud-

ies at Father Duenas High School and—like most tennis players his age—hopes to parlay his recent success to a college scholarship.

Quan, for his part, didn't mind losing twice to Dedicatoria. He said he just lost to a better player but will train harder and play with more fire and focus the next time they meet.

The 16-year-old high school student from Hawaii Preparatory Academy said he is excited in getting a chance to play in Fiji. Quan is the son of Sidney Tenorio and Priscila Tenorio and is the grandson of Joeten.

Pang, who goes to school at Collegio San Agustin in Manila, said she was surprised with the ease she won the tournament (She didn't drop a set the whole week). She, however, observed that a lot of 14-and-under girls are coming up in the NPQ.

"Overall, it was a very good tournament... perhaps except for the rain. I also hope to play good tennis in Fiji."

Ashraf, for her part, said her victory over Arriola has so far been the biggest tournament win of her young career.

She also said she is already excited in coming to the site of the last year's South Pacific Games. The 10-year-old up-and-comer is the only daughter of economist Dr. Mohammad Ashraf and banker Verna Felipe. Ashraf studies at



DR. MOHAMMAD ASHRAF

Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela attend the opening last June 14 at the AMP tennis courts.

William S. Reyes Elementary School.

A player who would not be satisfied just going to Fiji is Heo. After getting a taste of competition there last year, the 12-year-old Grace Christian Academy student is aiming to break into the top three of his division after finishing a strong fifth last year.

"I'm relieved more than anything. But this is only the start, I hope to improve more in Fiji."

Ditto for 38 Dugan. The 14-year-old said he was a bit nervous playing in his first regional championships last year and said he will definitely make a run at finishing better than his ninth place rank in 2003.

Still smarting from her upset loss to Ashraf, 14-year-old Arriola said she would just have to vent her frustration in the Pacific Champs.

"I didn't play well. My backhand

wasn't working and I had too many unforced errors. I will just use this defeat as motivation to do better in August."

Arriola goes to school at Hopwood Junior High School.

Like the seven, Sugahara most probably would also want to continue what she started in Fiji. All of the finalists know that competition there would be tougher, but all of them definitely would like to make their presence felt in the tournament.

International Tennis Federation-Oceania officer and tournament umpire Dan O'Connell said he thought Saipan and tournament director Jeff Race did a great job in hosting the tournament.

"I thank all of you so much. It was a great NPQ. All of the visiting coaches thought it was great and all of the kids had a wonderful time."

Race, who is off-island on vacation, also congratulated O'Connell for a well-run tournament and also thanked all the volunteers for pitching in to make it a success.

"Thanks to all of you for your great help in putting on the event. It was a fabulous event and one many of the kids will remember."

A total of 38 junior players from the CNMI, Guam, Palau, and FSM dueled in the NPQ, which was held from June 14-18 at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.